

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 251140Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9267

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1274

SCI PASS NASA AND FAIRCHILD SPACE AND ELECTRONICS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, IN, UX

SUBJECT: INDIAN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE PROJECT

REF: STATE 014390; NEW DELHIA-21.

1. EMBASSY IS DELIGHTED TO ARRANGE VISIT OF WILLIAM PRITCHARD, BUT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LONGER NOTICE PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE INDIAN CONTACTS.

2. SCIATT PLANS TO SEND LETTERS TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 TO MGK MENON, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS; S. DHAWAN, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DOS); YASH PAL, DIRECTOR, SPACE APPLICATION CENTER, DOS; BRAHMANAND REDDY, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS; KC PANT, MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER; IK GUJRAL, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND NV SHENOY, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, SEEKING APPOINTMENTS FOR PRITCHARD IN NEW DELHI AND INVITING THEM TO PRITCHARD'S STAG BUFFET AT THE OBEROI AT 8 P.M. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

3. WE WILL ALSO INVITE THE FOLLOWING TO THE BUFFET:

AJ KIDWAI, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;

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KG GILL, ADVISOR, PERSPECTIVE PLANNING DIVISION,

PLANNING COMMISSION;

SK SUBRAMANIAM, SECRETARY, NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;

MR. RAMAN, JOINT DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
DIVISION, PLANNING COMMISSION;

A RAMACHANDRAN, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY;

PS KANWAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
(DOS);

PN KRISHNAMURTHI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTRONICS;

DT SCHNEIDER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, EMBASSY;
S DUNCAN-PETERS, COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR;

WW WILLIAMS, SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE;

SK DUTT, SCIENCE SPECIALIST.

4. WHAT ARE PRITCHARD'S EXACT ETA AND ETD?

5. WHO IS ACCOMPANYING HIM?

6. KC PANT IS MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER WHO ALSO
ASSIST THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS IN QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC
ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE.

7. MENON IS CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE APPOINTED BY
THE CABINET TO DECIDE ON A COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE SYSTEM FOR INDIA. MEMBERS ARE: DHAWAN, KIDWAI,
SHENOI, GILL, S.K. SUBRAMANIAM, RAMAN, AND YASH PAL
(CONVENOR).

8. THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE R AND D BUDGET SUGGESTED IN THE
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FIFTH FIVE YAR PLAN (1974-1979) IS RS 1,725 MILLION,
OF WHICH ABOUT THREE QUARTERS SEEMS TO BE FOR
ROCKET LAUNCHING FACILITIES, ONE-TENTH FOR APPLICATIONS AND THE REST
FOR SATELLITES AND OTHER SCIENCE.

9. EMBASSY ASSUMES FAIRCHILD IS AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS IN INDIA. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS
THAT GOI FUNDING OF THE SATELLITE INSTRUCTIONAL

TELEVISION EXPERIMENT WILL BE REDUCED.

10. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH PRITCHARD, PLEASE
ADVISE BY RETURN CABLE IF WE SHOULD PROCEED AS
SUGGESTED IN THIS CABLE.SCHNEIDER

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